

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4651

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2360

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY SG

SUBJECT: SENEGALESE- LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) TRIPOLI 0509, (B) TRIPOLI 0425

1. IN ADDITION TO ITEMS MENTIONED REFTTEL A, JOINT COMMUNIQUE FOR PRIME MINISTER DIOUF'S VISIT TO LIBYA, AS PUBLISHED IN DAKAR, EMPHASIZED "IDENTITY OF VIEW" ON NECESSITY OF STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND REPORTED SIGNING OF SENEGALO-LIBYAN ACCORDS ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, CULTURE, AND COMMERCE. COMMUNIQUE ALSO DECLARED PARTIES IN ACCORD ON CONTINUING CONCERTATION WITH VIEW TOWARD HARMONIZING THEIR POSITIONS IN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. PARTIES COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ASSURE FULL SUCCESS OF APRIL 19-22 AFRO-ARAB MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN DAKAR. LOCAL PRESS HAS HEADLINED "NEW LINK OF AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION" FORGED BETWEEN SENEGAL AND LIBY.

2. WE ALSO NOTE THAT SENEGALESE AGREED TO STRONG STATEMENT IN COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCING "ZIONIST AGGRESSION AGAINST ARAB NATION AND ZIONIST OCCUPATION WITH COLONIALIST SUPPORT OF PALESTINE." TWO PARTIES ALSO REAFFIRMED THEIR "TOTAL ADHESION" TO UN ZIONISM/RACISM RESOLUTION.

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3. COMMENT: SENEGALESE HAVE GONE TO SOME LENGTH TO TEST WARMTH OF

LIBYAN WATERS, BOTH IN CONNECTION WITH GOS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SOLUTION OF SAHARA SITUATION AND, PRESUMABLY, TO SOLICIT ASSURANCES ON LIBYAN CONDUCT AT AFRO-ARAB MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DAKAR. HOWEVER, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT LIBYAN-SENEGALESE RELATIONS ARE NOT PROGRESSING WITH RAPIDITY WHICH COMMUNIQUE SUGGESTS. GOS FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS KANDE, WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER SECK ON APRIL TRIP TO LIBYA (DAKAR 2075) PRIOR TO PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT, RETURNED WITH OPEN CONTEMPT FOR LIBYANS. HE TOLD DCM AND POLITICAL OFFICER HE HAD CONCLUDED "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO TREAT WITH THOSE PEOPLE." HE DESCRIBED LIBYANS AS SELF-SATISFIED AND INEPT, COMPLAINING THAT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL, FOREIGN MINISTER'S DELEGATION HAD BEEN FORCED TO MAKE TIRING TRIP TO TOBRUK TO CELEBRATE BRITISH EVICTION DAY. HE RIDICULED LIBYAN SEATED NEXT TO HIM AT OFFICIAL DINNER (WHO, HE SAID, PERIODICALLY DRANK FROM HIS --KANDE'S-- GLASS), AND COMPLAINED THAT SENEGALESE WERE JAMMED INTO CARS FULL RADWFVMZERS.# FINALLY, HE SAID,

QADDAFI HIMSELF HAD ASKED "SILLY QUESTIONS," MOST NOTABLY DEMANDING OF FOREIGN MINISTER SECK "WHO SENT YOU?" WHEN SENEGALESE RESPONDED "PRESIDENT SENGHOR," QADDAFI ALLEGEDLY RESPONDED, "YES, OF COURSE, BUT WHO IS BEHIND SENGHOR?"

4. ONE OF SENGHOR'S FRENCH SECURITY ADVISORS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SENEGALESE TRIPOLI GAMBIT WAS PROBABLY AIMED AT DISSUADING LIBYANS FROM SUPPORTING ANTI-SENGHOR SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. ADVISOR SAID SENGHOR FREQUENTLY MOVED TO ENCOUNTER POSSIBLE FOES TO DISARM THEM BEFORE THEY WERE ABLE TO DO HIM HARM. THIS HAD BEEN CASE WITH PLO, WHICH HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO OPEN DAKAR OFFICE BUT TOLD THEY WOULD BE PUBLICLY KICKED OUT AT FIRST SIGNS OF ANY TERRORISM OR ANTI-GOS ACTIVITY. AGGREY

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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